

#16
JAN 30 2001
8-0-08

PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 040894-5574

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

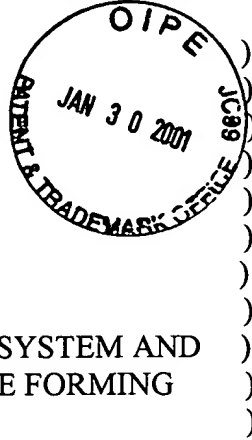
In re Application of:

Manabu AKAMATSU et al.

Application No.: 09/659,566

Filed: September 11, 2000

For: IMAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM AND
METHOD, AND IMAGE FORMING
APPARATUS



Group Art Unit: 2622

Examiner: Unassigned

RECEIVED

FEB 01 2001

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

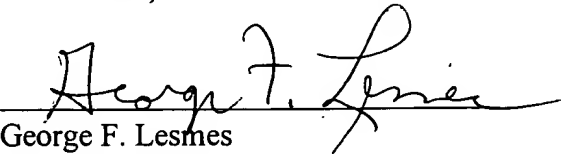
CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

Under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §119, Applicants hereby claim the benefit of the filing date of **Japanese** Patent Application No. 2000-006395 filed January 14, 2000 for the above-identified United States Patent Application.

In support of Applicants claim for priority, filed herewith is a certified copy of the Japanese application.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP


George F. Lesmes
Reg. No. 19,995

Dated: January 29, 2001

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1800 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202)467-7000

24